WTR-S 24 NOV 1964
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£ (600) AMS BUDGET

NIGHT LEAD ASSASSINATION

BY HARRY KELLY

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 24 (AP)-IN ANOTHER MONTH OR SO, PRESIDENT JOHNSON WILL RECEIVE A PLAN AIMED AT GIVING HIM AND SUCCEEDING CHIEF EXECUTIVES BETTER PROTECTION FROM ASSASSINS.

IF ADOPTED, THE CABINET COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS MAY PROVIDE SOME OF THE ANSWERS TO THE THEME OF "WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN" THAT RAN THROUGH THE TESTIMONY OF MANY WHO SAW JOHN F. KENNEDY SHOT TO DEATH IN DALLAS A YEAR AGO.

THE 26 VOLUMES OF TESTIMONY AMASSED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION WERE MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY WITH CHILLING DETAIL -- AND NAGGING QUESTIONS.

FOR INSTANCE: WOULD KENNEDY BE ALIVE TODAY IF SECRET SERVICE AGENTS HAD SHIELDED HIM BY STANDING ON THE SPECIAL STEPS ON THE BACK OF THE PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE?

THIS, IT TURNS OUT, GOES TO THE HEART OF A BASIC QUESTION OF WHETHER ANY PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAKE DECISIONS AFFECTING HIS OWN SECURITY--ONE OF THE MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THE CABINET COMMITTEE PRESUMABLY HAS UNDER STUDY.

FOUR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS WHO GUARDED KENNEDY DURING HIS VISIT TO TAMPA, FLA., FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION TESTIFIED KENNEDY HAD TOLD TWO AGENTS TO GET OFF THE "JUMP" STEPS OF THE LIMOUSINE.

GERALD A. BEHN, CHIEF OF THE WHITE HOUSE SECRET SERVICE DETAIL, SAID KENNEDY HAD TOLD HIM HE DID NOT WANT AGENTS RIDING ON THE BACK OF HIS CAR.

A45WX

HOWEVER, NONE OF THE SECRET SERVICE MEN SUGGESTED GUARDS WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE CAR IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR KENNEDY'S WISHES.

SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. ROWLEY EXPLAINED THAT IT NEVER HAD BEEN THE POLICY TO HAVE A AGENT ON THE REAR OF THE CAR AT ALL TIMES AND ADDED, "NO PRESIDENT WILL TELL THE SECRET SERVICE WHAT THEY CAN OR CANNOT DO."

"SOMETIMES," ROWLEY SAID, "IT MIGHT BE AS A POLITICAL MAN OR INDIVIDUAL HE MIGHT THINK THIS MIGHT NOT LOOK GOOD IN A GIVEN SITUATION. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN PER SE THAT HE DOESN'T WANT YOU THERE..."

THEN HE PUT HIS FINGER ON THE PROBLEM: "I THINK THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TO ALLOW THE MAN WHO IS OPERATING AS A POLITICIAN AND NOT AS HEAD OF STATE. I MEAN THIS MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR POSITION."

AND SO THE TUG-OF-WAR -- AS SEEN IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN --OF THE PRESIDENT WANTING TO SEE AND BE SEEN BY THE CROWDS AND THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS WORRYING ABOUT HIS SAFETY.

ON THE MORNING OF HIS DEATH, KENNEDY HIMSELF MENTIONED THE DIFFICULTY OF TRYING TO STOP A MAN WITH A RIFLE WHO IS INTENT ON KILLING A PRESIDENT-- A MAN SUCH AS LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

AND THUS ANOTHER PROBLEM THE CABINET COMMITTEE IS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT: FINDING A BETTER, MORE EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR SPOTTING PEOPLE SUCH AS OSWALD.

IT REPORTEDLY, HOWEVER, HAS REJECTED A WARREN COMMISSION PROPOSAL THAT THE SECRET SERVICE'S INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTIONS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FBI.

A46WX

ROWLEY, THE SERVICE'S CHIEF, TOLD THE COMMISSION JUNE 13 THAT THE AGENCY HAD TAKEN STEPS TO STRENGTHEN ITS PROTECTIVE RESEARCH SECTION SINCE THE ASSASSINATION.

UNDER THE NEW STANDARDS, HE SAID, OSWALD WOULD HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT AS A MENACE.

"IF WE KNEW WE WERE GOING TO GO TO DALLAS AND WE HAD THIS PRESENT CRITERIA, THEN WE WOULD INVESTIGATE HIM," ROWLEY SAID.

"WE INFUSED NEW BLOOD," HE ADDED. "WE HAVE ASKED THE RAND CORP., THE RESEARCH ANALYSIS CORP., THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISER AND THE MEDICAL PEOPLE FOR A STUDY OF THIS, AND WE ARE IN CONSTANT CONSULTATION."

(MORE)

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WASHINGTON 1ST ADD NL ASSASSINATION (A44-45-46WX) X X X CONSULTATION."

UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM, ROWLEY RECALLED, THE PROTECTIVE RESEARCH SECTION KEPT TABS ON PEOPLE KNOWN TO HAVE THREATENED THE PRESIDENT-- BUT THAT SYSTEM PRODUCED ONLY SOME 400 NAMES, NONE IN THE DALLAS AREA.

NOW, HE SAID, THE SECRET SERVICE WANTS TO HEAR FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ABOUT ANYONE WHO EXPRESSES A GRIEVANCE AGAINST THE PRE-

SIDENT OR ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIAL AND INDICATES HE INTENDS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

BUT, ROWLEY SAID, A FLOOD OF SUCH REPORTS WOULD RENDER THE SYSTEM UNWORKABLE.

"YOU HAVE TO GET IT DOWN TO A WORKABLE NUMBER," HE SAID.

THE DIFFICULTIES HERE WERE STRESSED BY FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER IN HIS CONTROVERSIAL NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK.

HOOVER BLASTED THE WARREN COMMISSION AS "UNFAIR AND UNJUST" IN CRITICIZING THE FBI FOR FAILING TO NOTIFY THE SECRET SERVICE THAT OSWALD WAS IN DALLAS.

HOOVER CONTENDED THERE WERE 7,000 PERSONS IN NEW YORK CITY ALONE WHO WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN OUT OF CIRCULATION EVERY TIME A PRESIDENT APPEARED THERE IF IT WERE DEEMED NECESSARY TO REMOVE "EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHO MIGHT THREATEN THE SAFETY OF THE PRESIDENT."

HOWEVER, HOOVER ADDED, HIS OFFICE IS TURNING OVER TO THE SECRET SERVICE THE NAMES OF "THOUSANDS OF BEATNIKS, CRACKPOTS AND KOOKS."

A48WX

THE CABINET COMMITTEE, WHICH IS UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY DOUGLAS DILLON, HAS BEEN HOLDING CLOSED MEETINGS ON THE PROBLEM OF PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY. THE SECRET SERVICE IS AN AGENCY OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

SOURCES SAID TODAY THE COMMITTEE HOPES TO MAKE ITS JAN. 1 TARGET DATE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH MAY PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR NEW CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION.

DILLON HIMSELF, IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION, URGED A 50 PER CENT INCREASE IN SECRET SERVICE AGENTS, AN AUTOMATIC ALARM SYSTEM TO DETECT INTRUDERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND OTHER MECHANICAL AIDES.

HE TOLD THE COMMISSION THE SERVICE HAD KNOWN FOR YEARS THAT IT WAS UNDERSTAFFED BUT HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE CONGRESS.

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